

CLAIMS

1. A method of authoring a document to be served for rendering on a plurality of classes of device comprising:
 - 5 defining at least two choices of content which may be styled for a first content portion of the document;
 - defining at least two choices of content which may be styled for a second content portion of the document; and
 - labelling the choices of content to indicate approved combinations of
 - 10 content for the first content portion with content for the second content portion.
2. The method of claim 1 in which the step of labelling the content to indicate approved combinations is performed manually by an author.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 which includes an additional step of arranging the allowable choices into class sub-sets, each class sub-set including only those labelled choices which match the properties of a class of devices on which the web document is to be
- 20 rendered.
4. The method of claim 3 which comprises defining more than one class sub-set of the approved choices.
- 25 5. The method of any one of claims which includes a further step comprising receiving the properties of a device requesting the web document and selecting from the sub-class of combinations which includes the device requesting the document a set of content which matches the properties of the requesting device.

6. The method of claim 5 in which the properties comprise physical properties of the device.

7. The method of any one of claims 3 to 6 in which the step of grouping
5 into sub-classes according to the properties of the device class comprises applying a set of rules to the content forming each combination in order to determine if it is allowable.

8. The method of claim 7 in which a rule which is used comprises
10 checking that the combination of content for the first and second portions fits within a minimum and/or a maximum area available on all of the devices within a class for rendering the content portions.

9. The method of claim 7 or claim 8 in which a different rule which
15 may be applied is to check if all of the content for a combination can be rendered by all of the defined devices within a class.

10. The method of any preceding claim in which a class of devices
comprises PDA devices, or PCs or WAP enabled devices.

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11. The method according to any preceding claim in which the web document which is authored comprises a web page, a portion of a web page or a set of web pages which are related to one another in some way.

25 12. The method of any preceding claim in which the choice of content is provided as a separate file or a sub-file of a single file.

13. The method of any preceding claim in which the step of providing content comprises authoring new content.

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14. A method according to any preceding claim which includes a step of providing a preference to each approved combination indicating which combination should be used in preference to another combination should more than one combination be suitable for sending to a requesting device.

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15. A method according to claim 14 in which the preference is to ensure that the largest size content is always used for a given property of a requesting device

10 16. A method of any one of claims 14 or claim 15 in which the labels for the approved combinations are used to indicate the preference.

17. The method of any preceding claim which includes the step of transmitting to a device making a request for a web document a web
15 document which includes one of the approved combinations included in the class-subset containing the requesting device which is best suited to that device.

18. A system for authoring a document to be served for rendering on a
20 plurality of classes of device comprising:

a content defining tool for defining at least two choices of content which may be styled, for a first content portion of the document and at least two choices of content, which may be styled, for a second content portion of the document; and

25 a labelling tool which permits the author to label the choices of content to indicate allowable combinations of content for the first content portion with content for the second content portion.

19. The system of claim 18 in which the content defining tool comprises
30 an editor which permits an author to define the identity and location of existing content choices and/or to author new content.

20. A system according to claim 18 or claim 19 in which the labelling tool is adapted to render automatically selected choices for an author or other user and request the author or user to indicate if the combination is
5 approved.

21. The system of any one of claims 18 to 20 in which a sub-class selection tool is provided which arranges the allowable choices into class sub-sets, each class sub-set including only those labelled choices which
10 match the properties of a class of devices on which the web document is to be rendered.

22. A system according to claim 20 in which the sub-class selection tool includes a device property agent which is adapted to retrieve the properties
15 of devices which form the class of devices for which the sub-class is based.

23. A data structure that is suitable for processing to produce a rendered document, the program comprising:
a content defining section defining at least two choices of content, which
20 may be styled, for a first content portion of the document and at least two choices of content, which may be styled, for a second content portion of the document;
a label section which includes labels corresponding to choices of content, each label indicating an allowable combination of content for the first
25 content portion with content for the second content portion.

24. The data structure of claim 22 in which a sub-class selection section which includes at least one defined class sub-set, each class sub-set including only those labelled choices which match the properties of a class
30 of devices on which the web document is to be rendered.

25. A method of authoring a document to be processed for rendering on a plurality of classes of device substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

5 26. A system for authoring a document to be processed for rendering on a plurality of classes of device substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

27. A data structure that is suitable for processing for rendering a
10 document substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.